

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-64 were previously cancelled. Claims 65-69, 73, 79, 86 and 93 are currently amended. Claims 70-72, 84, 90 and 99-125 are currently cancelled. Claims 74-78, 80-83, 85, 87-89, 91, 92 and 94-98 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-64 (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket unit adapted for use with a printing blanket cylinder of a rotary printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including an exterior surface;

an angled leading end leg on a leading end of said support plate;

an angled trailing end leg on a trailing end of said support plate;

a leading end fold on said support plate between said leading end leg and said exterior surface;

a trailing end fold on said support plate between said trailing end leg and said exterior surface;

a printing blanket on said exterior surface and having blanket leading and trailing ends with inside end surfaces situated adjacent said leading and trailing end folds; and

a filler material at said leading and trailing blanket ends between said leading and trailing end folds and said leading and trailing blanket inside end surfaces, said filler material acting as a support element wherein, in an installed position of said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder, said leading end filler material and said trailing end filler material, which are provided with lateral facing surfaces of a complimentary shape, are adjacent each other at a spacing distance of between 0.2 mm and 0.8 mm.

66. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein at least one of said printing blanket leading and trailing inside end surfaces protrudes beyond an associated one of said leading and trailing end folds and wherein said filler material supports said at least one protruding inside end surface.

67. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein a radius of said printing blanket unit in an installed position-portion on the printing blanket cylinder at an exterior surface of said printing blanket is equal at said leading and trailing blanket ends and intermediate said leading and trailing blanket ends.

68. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein in an installed position-portion of said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder, said leading end filler material and said trailing end and filler material are unconnected with each other and with an opposite end of said printing blanket unit.

69. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 68 wherein in said installed position-portion, said leading end filler material and said trailing end filler material are out of contact with each other.

Claims 70-72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 65-72 wherein said spacing distance is between 0.3 mm and .07 mm.

74. (Previously Presented) The printing unit blanket of claim 73 wherein said spacing distance is between 0.4 mm and 0.6 mm.

75. (Previously Presented) The printing unit blanket of claim 74 wherein said spacing distance is 0.5 mm.

76. (Previously Presented) The printing unit blanket of claim 65 wherein said blanket leading and trailing ends are produced from a workpiece by cutting.

77. (Previously Presented) The printing unit blanket of claim 65 wherein at least one of said leading and trailing end folds has a radius of between 0.3 mm and 0.7 mm.

78. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 77 wherein said radius is 0.5 mm.

79. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein at least one of said leading and trailing end folds has a radius of between 0.6 mm. and ~~And~~ 1.2 mm.

80. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 79 wherein said radius is 0.8 mm.

81. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein a length of each of said filler materials, in a circumferential direction of the printing blanket cylinder is between 0.4 mm and 1.0 mm.

82. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein a length of each of said filler materials, in a circumferential direction of the printing blanket cylinder is between 0.1 mm to 1.3 mm.

83. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 82 wherein said length is 0.7 mm.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said filler material extends in a radial direction of the printing blanket cylinder past a vertical extension of said support plate exterior surface.

86. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket unit adapted for use with a printing blanket cylinder of a rotary printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including an exterior surface;
an angled leading end leg on a leading end of said support plate;
an angled trailing end leg on a trailing end of said support plate;
a leading end fold on said support plate between said leading end leg and said exterior surface;
a trailing end fold on said support plate between said trailing end leg and said exterior surface;
a printing blanket on said exterior surface and having blanket leading and trailing ends with inside end surfaces situated adjacent said leading and trailing end folds; and
a filler material at said leading and trailing blanket ends between said leading and trailing end folds and said leading and trailing blanket inside end surfaces, said filler material acting as a support element. The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein, said printing blanket having unit has at least one of said leading first and trailing blanket second ends of a first, end thickness and a central area located between said leading first and trailing second ends of a second, central area thickness, said first thickness being greater than said second thickness,

whereby an exterior of said printing blanket unit at said end with said first end thickness extends in a radial direction of said printing blanket cylinder past a virtual extension-vertical exterior of said central area of said printing blanket unit.

87. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said leading and trailing end folds are enclosed by said filler material.

88. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said support plate is steel.

89. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said printing blanket is multi-layered.

90. (Cancelled)

91. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 65 wherein said printing blanket is a first material and said filler material is a second material different from said first material.

92. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said printing blanket is a first material and said filler material is said first material.

93. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket unit adapted for use with a printing blanket cylinder of a rotary printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including an exterior surface;

an angled leading end leg on a leading end of said support plate;

an angled trailing end leg on a trailing end of said support plate;

a leading end fold on said support plate between said leading end leg and said exterior surface;

a trailing end fold on said support plate between said trailing end leg and said exterior surface;

a printing blanket on said exterior surface and having blanket leading and trailing ends with inside end surfaces situated adjacent said leading and trailing end folds; and

a filler material at said leading and trailing blanket ends between said leading and trailing end folds and said leading and trailing blanket inside end surfaces, said filler material acting as a support element. The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein, said filler material being secured to said printing blanket prior to the mounting of said printing blanket on said support plate.

94. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein the printing blanket cylinder is in contact with a forme cylinder in the rotary printing press.

95. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 94 further including at least one printing blanket on said forme cylinder.

96. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 95 wherein said forme cylinder has a circumferential surface with at least one surface interruption.

97. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 95 wherein said filler material contacts said printing blanket.

98. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 65 wherein said printing blanket is situated on top of said filler material.

Claims 99-125. (Cancelled)